

PARENT BULLETIN

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Dear Parents and Carers,

It has been a very busy first term back which has whizzed by. The Sponsored Walk was absolutely a highlight of the term where students represented the school values in abundance. We are so proud of all of our students who dug deep to finish the walk and supported each other in doing so.

We have also enjoyed meeting many of you through Meet the Tutor Evening and our recent Year 9 Parents Evening. We have listened to parent feedback already on our evenings and have decided that going forward, we will use a hybrid model for each parents evening - there will therefore be a chance to meet in person and to engage with us on line. We hope giving parents both options ensures we can have excellent engagement at every event.

Well done to our amazing dancers who ended the term with a fantastic show case in our school hall. You were fabulous and we have such incredible talent amongst all years. Our Drama Production of High School Musical is well under way and we look forward to seeing this production in the new year.

On slightly frustrating news, we have been informed that it is likely that the exam boards will remove the help sheets for GCSE students in Physics and Maths. This means students will need to learn the formulae off by heart in Physics, there are over 20 of them to remember. We think this is very unfair on our students and will be writing to the exam boards to suggest they rethink this. If you also would like to raise concern, it would be appropriate to raise this with your MP.

We have a couple of staffing changes to notify parents about. Miss Hylands sadly left us yesterday and Year 11 will now be supported by Miss Taylor who is an experienced Pastoral Support Leader. The Year 7 team will be supported by Mx Page.

Finally, we hope you all have a restful half term and we look forward to welcoming all of our students back on Tuesday, 31st October 2023.

Best wishes

Mrs May

Headteacher



Save the Date

The Awards Evening for Year 8 – Leavers will be held on the 29th November, award winners will be notified next term and invited to celebrate their success with parents, carers and staff. More details to follow!



Achievement Point Rewards

To celebrate the end of term, rewards claimed in exchange for achievement points from the 2022-23 academic year have now been distributed. Students who have yet to claim their reward will be given an additional week to claim their prize and will receive an email notification when the Google form has been reopened.

Uniform policy reminder

Dear Parents/ Carers,



Now that the warmer weather has come to an end, this is a notice that students are required to wear their blazers at all times. Where the classroom environment is warm or there is a practical activity, the teacher will allow them to remove the blazer for the session. The plain black jumpers are permitted in addition to the blazer and not in place of.

Students will no longer be able to wear shorts to school as part of their PE kit on PE days from October 31st 2023. They should now ensure they wear **plain black jogging/ tracksuit trousers or leggings**. Logos no larger than the size of a credit card are permitted. These should be of a sports material so they are durable when students are undertaking physical activity.

If students feel that they will become too warm in sports trousers or leggings during their lessons, they should pack shorts in their bag and change into these at the start of their PE lesson.

Cycling shorts are no longer permitted as part of the school PE kit and have been removed from our PE kit options. Students should ensure they wear **loose fitting, football style shorts** that are **mid-thigh/ just above the knee**. These should also be plain back with logos no larger than a credit card.

Shorts should be worn appropriately and not rolled.

Any PE kit infringements will be sanctioned in line with the uniform policy.

Many thanks for your support. We are very proud of the majority of students who respect our uniform policy and wear it with pride daily.

Kind regards,

The Pastoral Team

Yr	Head or Year (HOY)	Pastoral Support Leader (PSL)	Email
7	Mrs Lesley Naylor (Tuesday – Friday am) Miss Paige Martin (Monday and Friday pm)	Mrs Davina Taylor Mx Rain Page	pastoral-7@willingdonschool.org.uk
8	Mr Tom Cain	Miss Lisa Brockman	pastoral-8@willingdonschool.org.uk
9	Mrs Zoe Kemp Mr Jason Thornton	Mrs Cathy Codling	pastoral-9@willingdonschool.org.uk
10	Mr Lee Gordon	Mrs Carrie Meanwell	pastoral-10@willingdonschool.org.uk
11	Mr Anthony Roche	Mrs Davina Taylor Ms Vicky Bishop (2 days)	pastoral-11@willingdonschool.org.uk



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Sparx Maths

In Term 1, students demonstrated exceptional commitment and perseverance in their Sparx homework, showcasing a commendable dedication to their mathematical education. Through Sparx, they embraced challenges, tackled complex problems, and consolidated the work they have been doing at school. We are immensely proud of their achievements and the progress they have made.

As we celebrate their accomplishments in Term 1, we commend each student for their hard work and congratulate them on their achievements. Their dedication to Sparx homework reflects their commitment to learning, and we are excited to see their continued growth and success in the upcoming terms. Well done to all our students for their outstanding efforts!

Below are the top 10 students in the school for XP points during Term 1.

F. de D	V 14	12.026
Evie B	Year 11	12,026
Hana N	Year 8	9,258
Aaryan W	Year 7	9,016
Katie-May L	Year 10	7,975
Evie M	Year 7	6,815
Jaime W	Year 7	6,813
Alfie B	Year 7	6,575
Beatris B	Year 7	6,453
Manya D	Year 8	6,208
Zac M	Year 8	6,101

THIS WIEK



Dance Show 2023

What a fantastic evening at the dance show. We have amazing talent here at Willingdon. We are proud of the students and thank you to all who came to watch!





Great to have the Year 7s representing the school in their first football fixture well done to all involved this evening!

Year 8 boys were 8-0 winners and into Round 2 of the County Cup. Year 7 girls played in a hard fought game but ended up with a 7-4 loss.

Tears 10 & 11



Dear Parent/Carer,

<u>UK University & Apprenticeship Fair – Amex Stadium / Tuesday 14th November 2023</u>

We are now able to offer Year 11 students a limited number of places on the UK University and Apprenticeship Fair trip on Tuesday 14th November, details below. Unfortunately, those students who are studying Spanish have their mock exam on the same day as the trip so they will be unable to attend. Apologies for any disappointment that this may cause.

The UK University & Apprenticeship Fair is a great way for students to explore which university or apprenticeship might be right for them. This informative event will provide students with the opportunity to speak to a multitude of exhibiting universities and apprenticeship providers. These will include Russell Group universities (such as Oxford, Cambridge, Durham & Exeter), red brick (Birmingham, Bristol, Leeds, Liverpool, Manchester, and Sheffield), modern institutions, as well as many of the UK's biggest apprenticeship providers and local colleges. In addition, there will be some seminars that students will be able to attend including UCAS (University & Colleges Admissions Service) personal statements, why take an apprenticeship, university life/courses, and Russell Group universities.

The date of the fair is **Tuesday 14th November** and is being hosted at Brighton Amex Stadium. We will travel there by coach for a two-hour slot, from 10.30a.m. - 12.30p.m., and then return to school for the remainder of the afternoon. We believe our students would gain a great deal of information from this event, meeting prospective colleges, universities and apprenticeship providers.

There are 45 spaces available and it is therefore on a first come first served basis. We kindly request that each student pays a contribution of £12.10, payable via ParentPay, to cover the coach fee. If you require assistance with payment, please email or call me on the contact details below. Students are required to wear school uniform and bring food/drink along with them. Those students that receive free school meals will have a packed lunch provided for them.

Please note that this is now live on ParentPay.

If you would like any further information, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely,

Sarah Rooney

Careers Adviser

srooney@willingdonschool.org.uk

Also a reminder to our Year 10 parents of the above opportunity. There are still spaces available to book on ParentPay.



Year 11 students wishing to apply to BHASVIC can now do so by clicking on the following link: https://www.bhasvic.ac.uk/admissions/apply-now

All applications received by the priority deadline of **Friday 1st December** will be guaranteed an interview.

The college encourages applicants to attend one of their open evenings before applying to join BHASVIC. This will give them the chance to speak to staff and students to help decide on subject choices and find out more about the college. The dates for the open evenings are:

Wednesday 8th & Thursday 9th November / 4.00 – 8.00p.m.